

DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 380 053

IR 016 880

AUTHOR Chiang, Win-Shin S., Ed.; Elkington, Nancy E., Ed.
TITLE Electronic Access to Information: A New Service
Paradigm. Proceedings from a Symposium (July 23-24,
1993, Palo Alto, California).
INSTITUTION Research Libraries Group, Inc., Mountain View, CA.
PUB DATE Jan 94
NOTE 83p.
AVAILABLE FROM Research Libraries Group, Inc., 1200 Villa St.,
Mountain View, CA 94041-1100 (\$10 or \$15
overseas).
PUB TYPE Collected Works - Conference Proceedings (021)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Access to Information; Futures (of Society); Group
Discussion; *Information Services; *Information
Technology; Librarians; Library Role; Library
Services; Research Libraries; *Research Tools;
*Strategic Planning; Technological Advancement; *User
Needs (Information); Vendors
IDENTIFIERS California (Palo Alto); Paradigm Shifts; *Research
Libraries Group

ABSTRACT

The Research Libraries Group (RLG) hosted a symposium to explore opportunities for cooperative action--to take advantage of technology and to improve electronic access to information--particularly in the RLG context, and to develop strategies for making the most effective use of technology and electronic information in support of research and teaching missions of RLG member institutions. The program consisted of a keynote address, presentations on four main topics, six small group discussions, closing remarks, and a program wrap-up. In the keynote speech, "Knowledge Services in the Digitized World: Possibilities and Strategies" by Douglas E. Van Houweling, the role of the "new library" is defined, and fundamental questions are raised about the nature of the library business, the customers, and future needs. The first topic, "Local or Remote Access: Choices and Issues" by Nancy M. Cline, concerns selecting different modes of access to information and suggests strategies for making the right choices. In the second topic, "Building Xanadu: Creating the New Library Paradise," Jerry D. Campbell discusses a survey of faculty and students that illustrates the changing needs and expectations of users; highlights new opportunities for service through technology; explores the effects of new technologies on organizational structure and services; and suggests strategies for revitalizing library service. "Fair use" is examined in the third topic, "How Fair Is Use: When Publishing Is More Like Broadcasting?" by Kathryn M. Downing, in the context of promoting greater access to information. The copyright/licensing program used by the music industry is suggested as a possible model. The fourth topic, "Partners and Alliances" by Robert C. Berring, covers the need for librarians to form alliances with resourceful information vendors. Closing remarks were made by Kathleen Price in "Xanadu Revisited: Clothing the Emperor for the New Library Role in the Electronic Library Paradigm," and James Michalko presented the program wrap-up, "Challenges Facing the Research Libraries Group in the Coming Decade". Appendices provide cases in point (Project JANUS,

the RiCE program, and Project TULIP) as well as a profile and list of
symposium participants. (AEF)

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